

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A fuel-fired power vented heating appliance, representatively a water heater, has, in its draft structure, a single thermal or other type of cutoff switch which serves the dual function of preventing (1) the creation  
5 of an unacceptably high level of carbon monoxide in the combustion chamber of the appliance, and (2) thermal damage to a PVC vent pipe portion of the draft structure. When triggered, the cutoff switch operates to terminate further firing of the appliance. In one illustrative embodiment of the appliance, this is achieved by preventing further  
10 combustion air flow to the appliance. In another illustrative embodiment of the appliance, it is achieved by terminating further fuel flow thereto.